

3

COPY

OF THE

ARTICLES

OF THE

Benevolent Association,

IN

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE;

Established 1st January, 1795,

FOR

MUTUAL RELIEF,

AND ALSO

For the RELIEF of their

WIDOWS AND CHILDREN.

NEWCASTLE:

PRINTED BY HALL AND ELLIOT.

MDCCXCV.

40



ARTICLES of AGREEMENT indented,
made, and fully agreed upon this first
day of January, in the thirty-fifth year of
the reign of our Sovereign Lord George
the Third, by the Grace of God of Great
Britain, France, and Ireland, King, De-
fender of the Faith and so forth, and
in the year of our Lord one thousand
seven hundred and ninety-five, between
FENWICK CARR, of the town and county
of Newcastle upon Tyne, Master Mari-
ner; JOHN HALSTEAD, of the same place,
Master Mariner; JOHN COULSON, of the
same place, Master Mariner; WILLIAM
PETRIE, of the same place, Master Mari-
ner; and JOHN FRAM, of the same place,
Master Mariner; GEORGE HENDERSON,
JOHN ARKLEY, and THOMAS ELDER,
respectively, of Newcastle aforesaid, Master
Mariners, and the several other Persons,
Gentlemen, Merchants, Owners, and
Masters of Ships, residing within the limits
of the town and port of Newcastle, who
shall on the day of the date hereof, or
at any time or times hereafter, be ad-
mitted into and become Members of this
Company or Society as hereinafter men-
tioned, and shall sign, seal, and duly
execute these presents as parties to the
same :—

Parties.

AND all and every of the said several and respective persons above named, and also all and every other person and persons who shall hereafter become parties, by duly executing these presents do, and each and every of them doth, hereby severally and respectively for themselves, and for their several and respective heirs, executors, and administrators, and not jointly or the one of them for the other or others of them, or for the heirs, executors, and administrators for one another, covenant, promise, and agree to and with each and every of the other or others of them and their several and respective executors and administrators, to unite and associate themselves into a Company or Society for the purposes hereinafter particularly mentioned; and in all things on their respective parts and behalves, to keep, observe, obey, perform, make, and do all and singular the conditions, clauses, rules, orders, regulations, payments, and other matters and things whatsoever by these presents, agreed to be kept, observed, obeyed, performed, made, and done respectively, and hereinafter particularly expressed, (that is to say)

FIRST.
Covenant to
associate for
mutual relief
by the name of

The several parties hereto being willing
and desirous to make some provisions for
themselves

themselves and families in case of sickness, affliction, misfortune, old age, or death, have agreed to unite and associate themselves into a Society for the relief and support of such of them as shall be afflicted with sickness or accidental misfortune, or overtaken by old age; and also for the relief of their widows and children, by the name of the *Benevolent Association*, in Newcastle; and that these presents shall be and continue in full force, so long as five of the Members or Parties hereto shall chuse to remain and continue Parties hereto, and keep and perform the several agreements and payments hereby on each Member's part agreed to be paid, kept, done, and performed; and that the number of Members or Parties hereto shall consist of so many and such persons as the majority of the Association, at any meeting, shall think proper: and that each person shall, upon his admittance, pay into the fund the sum of ten shillings and six-pence.

That for the good regulation of this Society, the said FENWICK CARR, WILLIAM PETRIE, JOHN COULSON, HUGH SPENCER, and FENWICK WILKINSON, shall be a Committee for managing the affairs and funds thereof, until the next meeting in January next; and the determination of any two or

the Benevolent Association, in Newcastle upon Tyne.

SECOND.
Committee of five appointed to manage the business.

Who covenant
to discharge
their duty
faithfully, and
not to admit
any person a
Member above
the age of 45
years.

or more of such Committee shall be binding and conclusive to all the other Members, unless annulled by a majority of the Members at any meeting: and the said Committee and all future Committees do hereby covenant, promise, and agree to and with the said several Parties hereto, and their respective executors and administrators, and to and with each and every of them that they and each of them shall and will well and truly discharge their office according to the true meaning of these presents, and apply the funds and contributions to be raised to the purposes thereof: and shall not admit any person as a Member, who shall be above the age of forty-five years.

THIRD.
Meetings to be
held quarterly.

Members to
pay the fund
rs. in the
pound upon
their earnings.

That a meeting of such of the Members as shall be at home shall be held quarterly—on the second Tuesday in April; the second Tuesday in July; the second Tuesday in October; and the second Tuesday in January, (where the Box shall be kept,) at six o'clock in the evening to transact the business of the Association; and every such Member, party hereto, shall then pay into the Box or Fund of the Company, the sum of one shilling for every twenty shillings he shall have then earned, per voyage or month, which payment shall be made at the conclusion of every voyage or voyages, or on the

the arrival at Newcastle; and no Members shall proceed on another voyage until the former is paid, upon pain of forfeiting to the fund one shilling for every such neglect. And in case any Member shall conceal or deny any part of such earnings to defraud the Company, upon proof being made thereof to the satisfaction of the majority of the Members then present, such Members offending shall pay up the money deficient, and also forfeit and pay into the Box or Fund the sum of five shillings for every such offence.

Members not
fairly contri-
buting to for-
feit 5s.

And every Member not paying up what is due from him to the Company as afore-
said in the space of six months, it shall
and may be lawful to and for the majority of
the Members or Parties hereto present at
the first quarterly meeting, at or after the
expiration of such six months, to exclude
and expel such Member or Members so in
arrear as aforesaid from and out of this
Company or Association, by writing under
their hands, to be entered in the book of
the Company, and a true copy thereof
delivered to the Party or Parties offending,
or left for him or them at his or their
usual place of residence within three days
from and after such entry, and such Party
or Parties so excluded shall forfeit all the
money

And not pay-
ing for six
months to be
expelled.

money he or they shall have paid into the fund of the Company, and shall from thenceforth be absolutely discharged from any further payments thereto, and shall be totally debarred from receiving any benefit therefrom. And at the first quarterly meetings, a Clerk shall be appointed (during pleasure) to keep the accounts and transact the business of the Association, and each Member shall spend two-pence at each meeting.

FOURTH.

In case any Member shall go to sea in a lower station than master, he shall only pay according to his earnings.

Members not going to sea shall pay 15s. a quarter.

That in case any Member or Members hereto shall hereafter be necessitated to go mate or common man, such Member or Members shall, from thenceforth so long as he or they shall be so reduced, pay to the fund of this Association according to his or their earnings. And in case any Member or Members shall decline going to sea, and such Members hereto as are not seamen, shall respectively pay the sum of fifteen shillings a quarter into the fund; and the Members so declining shall also pay the same money into the fund at the usual meetings, under the same penalties as other Members, which payments shall be accepted and taken as equivalent to the earnings of such Member or Members.

That

That a strong Box shall be provided to hold the Company's stock, which shall have three different locks, and a key of each lock shall be delivered to three different Members or Parties hereto, who shall be nominated for that purpose by a majority of the Company; which Box shall be committed to the care and charge of some Innkeeper in Newcastle aforesaid, or to such other person as a majority of the Parties hereto shall think proper; and whoever shall have the care and charge of the said Box for the time being, shall enter into and execute a bond with sufficient securities, in such penalty as the majority of the Parties hereto shall think necessary for the safe production of the same and the contents thereof, and which shall be never opened or shut but in the presence of the keeper thereof, his wife, or some person employed by him for that purpose.

That if any Member shall happen to be shipwrecked, and the ship lost, such Member shall be intitled to receive from the fund of this Association the sum of fifteen pounds, provided such Member shall have been Party hereto for the term of two years or upwards before the time of such loss, and not otherwise; or in case any Member shall belong to any ship which

B

shall

FIFTH.
Box to be provided with three locks and kept in some house in Newcastle.

Bond to be given for producing the same.

SIXTH.
Shipwreck'd Members to receive 15l.

Or such damage as he shall have sustained, not exceeding 15l.

shall be only stranded and got off again, the loss which such Member hath sustained shall be proved to the satisfaction of the Committee, who thereupon shall make a reasonable recompence to the suffering Member according to the circumstances of the case, not exceeding fifteen pounds, and when the recompence to be made is agreed upon, it shall then be paid as ordered: and if any Member or Members in the said Association are heard or found at any time hereafter finding fault with such sums being settled upon according to this rule, they shall be fined five shillings. And in order to keep up the said fund, each Member shall, on payment of any such money as aforesaid, pay into the said fund the sum of one shilling a piece.

If Members find fault respecting such payments, to forfeit 5s.

And on payment of such sums, each Member to pay 1s.

SEVENTH.
If any Member shall be captured he shall receive 15l. and 6s. per week during his imprisonment.

That in case any Member shall, after being a Member for two years, happen to be taken by an enemy, such Member shall receive out of the fund of this Association the sum of fifteen pounds, and shall also receive the sum of six shillings per week, so long as he or they shall be detained in prison by any such enemy, and on such payment: and, in order to keep up the said fund, each Member shall pay to the same the sum of one shilling.

That

That if any Member or Members as
aforesaid shall, through sickness, accidental
misfortunes, or old age, (after being a
Member one year) become unable to follow
his or their employment, such Member or
Members shall receive from the fund of
this Company, the sum of nine shillings
per week, commencing at the end of one
week's illness, and if he continue so for
one year, then the payment to be reduced
to five shillings per week during the time
of such his or their affliction, or for life,
if unable to make a sufficient endeavour
for a livelihood.

EIGHTH.
If any Member
(by sickness)
shall be unable
to follow his
employment,
he shall receive
9s. per week
for a year, and
5s. per week
afterwards.

That if any Member or Members shall
happen to die, (after he or they shall have
been Party hereto for the term of one year
or upwards,) his or their widow or widows
shall be intitled to receive from and out
of the fund of this Association, so long
as she or they shall continue a widow or
widows, the annuity or yearly sum of ten
pounds each, but not to receive the said
annual money till the end of three years
from his first becoming a Member, and
then entitled to one year's pay, unless the
deceased Member shall have belonged to
this Society for two years or upwards,
then the first payment to be made at the
end of one year from his decease; and

NINTH.
If any Member
die his widow
to receive 10l.
per annum.

And when the
the fund a-
mounts to
1000l. 15l.
per annum.

The sum of 5l.
to be paid im-
mediately on
the death of a
Member to the
widow.

TENTH.
In case there
shall be no
widow, the
children to re-
ceive the annu-
ity till the
youngest is 14.

And in case
any orphan in-
capable of get-
ting a liveli-
hood, to be
paid 1s. 6d.
per week, for
life.

when the fund shall amount to one thou-
sand pounds, the widows of each deceased
Member shall receive fifteen pounds annu-
ally; and any such widow or widows shall
and may be at liberty to draw and receive
from the fund of this Association, imme-
diately on the decease of her or their
husband or husbands, the sum of five
pounds, to be deducted or retained out
of her or their first year's annuity.

And in case any Member or Members,
having been a Party hereto for the term
of one year or upwards, shall happen to
die, and leaving no widow, or leaving a
widow who shall die, the child or children
of such deceased Party or Parties shall, so
long as the youngest of them remains
under the age of fourteen years, receive
from the fund of this Association the same
annuities as the widow or widows would
have been entitled to; and in case any such
children, being orphans, shall (though
above fourteen years of age) be incapable
of getting their livelihood, by reason of
lameness, blindness, or other misfortunes,
acquired before that age, then such child
shall be paid a sum not less than one
shilling and sixpence a week, for and during
his or her natural life; and in making such
payments, regard shall be had to the funds
and

and growing contributions, so that they shall not be exceeded, by making a proportionable deduction from all the payments before mentioned; and in case any Member shall die, leaving neither widow or child, the next of kin, or such persons as the Member may by his will direct, shall be paid twenty pounds, within three months after his death, provided the deceased was a Member twelve months, and complied with the rules of the Association.

That if any Member or Members shall happen to die, not having been a Party or Parties hereto for the term of one year, the money he or they shall have then paid into the Box or Fund of this Association shall be returned to his widow or descendants, and if no widow or descendants shall belong to the Fund.

That upon payment of any such money as aforesaid, each person receiving the same shall pay into the Box or Fund, the sum of one shilling.

That the business and affairs of this Association (not settled by the Committee, or any two or more of them) shall be proposed and carried by a majority of votes of the Members present at such meetings of the Company as aforesaid: and if any Member or Members shall propose to break
up

Deduction to be made if funds are likely to be exceeded.

Member dying leaving no widow or child, his next of kin, or such person to whom he shall bequeath the same, to be paid 20l.

ELEVENTH.
A Member dying not having been a year in the Association, his money to be returned.

TWELFTH.

THIRTEENTH.

Business not settled by the Committee to be done at the meetings.

Members
guilty of any
breach, &c. to
be expelled.

up the Company or Association, or to share any money out of the Box or Fund, or even to borrow money from the Fund without tendering a sufficient security, or shall not agree to the determination of the majority of the Company, or to any matter regularly voted and carried as aforesaid, or shall receive any benefit from the Fund unworthily, or shall break these articles, or do any matter or thing whatsoever tending to deceive, defraud, or injure all or any of the Members of this Association, shall be excluded and expelled from this Association by the Committee for the time being, or any two or more of them, and shall forfeit all the money he or they have then paid into the Fund of this Association.

FOURTEENTH.

Members
quarreling, &c
to pay forfeits.

That if at any meeting any Member strike at another Member in anger, he shall forfeit the sum of five shillings; and if both Members strike at each other, they shall forfeit five shillings a piece: and if any Member, at any meeting of the Company, shall swear or talk obscenely, or keep not silence when demanded, such Member or Members so offending shall forfeit sixpence each, to be paid into the Fund of this Association: and if any Member shall know any cause why any person proposing to enter into this Association should not be admitted,

admitted, and which, if divulged, would have prevented him; and also if any Member shall declare, to any rejected or other person, what was the cause of his being refused, or who mentioned the same, both the Member who shall not divulge the same to the Society, and the Member who afterwards shall make the same known, shall be immediately fined one guinea; and upon the denial of paying the said fine, without sufficient reason to the satisfaction of the Society, shall be immediately excluded, and forfeit the whole money he or they shall have then paid into the said Fund of this Association.

Members knowing any cause why any one should not be admitted, and not divulging the same to the Company, or any Member revealing such out of the Company, to forfeit one guinea.

And on refusing to pay the fine, to be excluded.

That if any Member shall reflect upon another for not having paid so much to the Box or Fund as he or any other Member hath paid, such Member shall forfeit and pay to the Fund the sum of five shillings for every such offence.

FIFTEENTH. Members upbraiding others for not having paid so much as them to be fined.

That upon the death of any Member the other Members at home shall attend his funeral, or pay a fine of one shilling to the Fund.

SIXTEENTH. Members to attend funerals

That the contributions to be raised shall be placed out at interest, or in the Funds, in the name or names of such of the Committee as shall be agreed upon, in trust nevertheless for the purposes of the Association.

SEVENTEENTH. Contributions to be placed out at interest.

That

EIGHTEENTH.
Annual meet-
ings to be held
on the 18th of
January, when
Committee to
be chosen, bye
laws made,
&c.

That a general meeting of all the Members of this Association shall be held on the eighteenth day of January, in every year, at the house where the Box is kept for the time being, at which time a Committee of five Members who shall have been Parties hereto for the term of one year or upwards, shall be voted and appointed to transact the business of the Company for the ensuing year, and the determination of any two or more of such Committee, respecting the business of the Company or Association, shall be binding and conclusive to all the other Members, and shall not be annulled or reversed, but by a majority of the whole Members or Parties hereto; and such annual meetings shall have power to make bye laws and regulations, and every Member shall then, by himself or proxy, pay one shilling to defray the expence thereof, and shall also pay up all arrears that day, or be fined one shilling. In witness whereof the said parties to these presents have hereunto set there hands and seals, the day and year above written.

